

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of allowable claim 11 and to amend n2 and n3 to 1. The cancellation of claims 19 and 20 has been made to advance the prosecution of this application and does not suggest that the diamine compounds of the invention are not photoisomerizable. In addition, claims 14 and 16 have been canceled.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 3-10, 12-13, 19-20 and 41 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takao et al (US 6139927).

In response, Applicants submit that the present claims are not obvious over Takao's diamine, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Initially, Applicants submit that Takao's diamines do not teach in-between units in the alkyl chain of the diamine compound such as C¹, C² or C³ or Z¹ and Z², which are described for compound (I) of the present invention.

Also, Applicants submit that there is no hint provided how and that the diamine compound described by Takao should be changed so that a skilled person could arrive at the diamines of the invention. Hence, a skilled person would not be motivated to do so.

Finally, it is noted that claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 11, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over Takao, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 14-17 and 21-40 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11, 14-17 and 21-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication, Applicants have amended claim 3 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this objection has been overcome, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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/Bruce E. Kramer/
Bruce E. Kramer
Registration No. 33,725